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## HISTORY OF A FATAL CASE OF HYDROPHOBIA.

BY OTHO M. HERRON, M.D.

DANIEL WONDERLY, a laborer, aged 23, was admitted into the Commercial Hospital of Ohio, on the evening of February 15, laboring in the second stage of Hydrophobia.

Symptoms, etc.—Eyes widely opened, giving him a wild and alarmed expression. Pulse soft, slow, rather small, and 80. Tongue slightly coated in the centre, margin red. Skin moist. Respiration natural. Great aversion to the sight of water. When urged to drink some, insists upon having it brought up behind him. He then reaches around for the cup, and swallows in the utmost haste and terror. The lower jaw is in continued motion, as if to retain its mobile condition, and resist spasm. Fauces dry, and, perhaps, of a little deeper red than natural. Conjunctiva of the right eye injected. Eyes moist. When questioned as to the seat of his distress, he could give it no definite location. Says his head is clear, and no tenderness of the thorax or abdomen could be detected. At the time of his admission he could articulate, but his voice was extremely hoarse. His voice diminished into a whisper, which ultimately subsided into almost perfect aphonia. Insane at intervals, with slight convulsive paroxysms. Tart. antimony was given in divided doses, every 15 minutes, until he took gr. viij., but without apparent effect. Chlor. Hyd., gr. xxx. and G. Opii, gr. iij., repeated every two hours. 16.—No visible change. The principal internal medicine used to-day, in addition to the above, was extract *Belladonnæ*, gr. j., every hour; but no narcotic effect was induced. At 4, P. M., a discharge of saliva commenced from the mouth, which increased. He made continual, but ineffectual attempts to throw it from him. At between 6 and 7, P. M. his pulse was feeble and hurried, respiration labored, and 40. The disorder of the respiration seemed more like the effect of fear than of disease. Urinary evacuation copious. A sour and peculiar effluvium emanates from his body. Eyes of a light green color, swimming in moisture; opened to the utmost; the conjunctiva of the right one highly injected, and the pupil dilated more than the left. Sees the surrounding objects distinctly enough. Expresses extreme concern for his wife and family. Calls most piteously upon his Maker to relieve him, and entreats those around to kill him out of his torment. His brother-in-law came in at 8 o'clock, —recognized and spoke to him as soon as he entered the room. At this time his countenance was expressive of the most excessive fright

and horror. Calls piteously and perpetually upon heaven for relief. Respiration within the last two hours accelerated in frequency (not counted); is not more labored than previously, but the inspirations are diminished in quantity, and seem as if confined to the superior pulmonary lobes. Spumous discharge from the mouth increased. He died at ten o'clock, this evening. It is impossible to conceive a more frightful picture of anguish than was presented in his case. There were but occasional aberrations of intellect; so that with the utmost imaginable suffering, there was combined a consciousness almost perfect.

*Post-Mortem* (eighteen hours after death).

*Countenance* distorted into an agonized expression.

*Head.* The scalp was removed without the loss of a drop of blood. Two ecchymoses, about the size of a shilling, on the parietal bone of the right side, near the junction of the coronal and sagittal sutures. Supposed to have been produced by external wound. Dura mater healthy. The longitudinal sinus contained the usual quantity of venous blood. Arachnoid—no perceptible lesion. Pia mater—the vessels upon the surface of the left hemisphere considerably distended. Those on the right less so. Cerebral substance somewhat softened. Upon making a section, the cineritious matter presented an ordinary appearance as to color and depth. The medullary studded with innumerable red points. The ventricles contained a small quantity of reddish serum, perhaps in all 5 or 6 drachms. The choroid plexus of a darker brown and more granular than natural. The vessels of the velum interpositum were very unusually distended. Corpora striata and optic chalami presented no abnormal appearance, save the *ramollissement*, which was common to the whole structure. Pineal gland a shade darker than natural; the color was a pretty good purple. The tubercula quadrigemina, corpora albicantia, petuitary gland, and pons varolii, were carefully examined, but exhibited no diseased aspect differing from that of the cerebrum in general. The cerebellum less consistent than the cerebrum. I believe this is invariably the case in fresh subjects. The cineritious substance of a brighter red than that of the cerebrum.

The medulla spinalis was cut off as low down as it could be reached with the knife, and examined with all possible care, but no morbid appearance could be seen. Thorax—both lungs exceedingly engorged, so that there was scarcely a perceptible collapse when the sternum and costal cartilages were removed. No adhesion. No effusion into the cavity of the pleura. Emphysematous vesicles in several places upon the exterior surface, but most numerous in the interstices of the lobes. A small effusion of lymph at the lower border of the inferior lobe of the right lung. Effused a reddish serosity when incised. Heart sound. Large arteries sound. No escape of air from them.

*Trachea and bronchia.* The lining membrane at the upper part of the trachea was pale and tumefied. The pouches of Morgagni filled up, and the parts in the immediate region so swollen as to destroy the possibility of healthy function in this part, and to account clearly for the difficulty in articulating. At about two thirds of the way down the trachea, the membrane abruptly assumed a dark brown color, and was covered

with a layer of tenacious mucus, colorless on the surface, but having, beneath, a reddish lymphatic secretion, which gave the membrane its peculiar hue. This adhered firmly to the membrane, which was easily abraded by a scrape of the scalpel. This disorganization was traced into the most minute ramifications of the bronchia that could be examined.

*Pharynx.* At the upper part, the mucous membrane arid, and extremely pale. Towards the middle, the calibre exceedingly contracted—the handle of a small scalpel was passed down with difficulty. At this part, the membrane is traversed by numerous longitudinal corrugations, and incrustated by a stratum of doughy albuminoid matter of such a consistence as to be rolled into little cylinders between the fingers. At the portion lying contiguous to the larynx, this crust had a dark discoloration. Beneath this part, which embraces, perhaps, three inches, the pharynx gradually assumes its natural aspect.

*Stomach.* About a gill of green and foetid fluid in this viscus. A number of round excavations were scattered over the surface of the mucous membrane, from the size of a pin head to that of a large pea; most numerous toward the pyloric extremity of the greater curvature, and not having an appearance of recent ulceration.

Liver, spleen, kidneys and small intestines, healthy. Colon and rectum have the well marked traces of an old diarrhœa. Bladder healthy and empty.

The par vagum was carefully and minutely examined, and presented no diseased aspect, either in the neurilemma or fibre.

*Glands.* Sublingual, parotid, and submaxillary, exhibited no trace, whatever, of morbid change.

Considerable pains were taken to obtain an accurate history of the case up to the time of his admission. The following are the facts that may be relied upon, as related by Mr. Brown, the employer of the patient, and several of his relatives, all of whom live between three and four miles from the city. On the 22d January, the patient was bitten near the metacarpal joint of the little finger, by a small female lap-dog. It was so unusual an occurrence, as to excite suspicion. She was watched, and observed to bite a puppy not long after. The puppy was confined, went mad in nine days, and died. No mad dog had been heard of in the vicinity for years, besides this one. He applied, soon after his bite, to a *steam doctor*; next tried the *mad stone*; next posted off to an *Indian doctor*, living at a considerable distance, and finally sent for a *regular doctor*. After subjecting himself to the multifarious and diverse plans of treatment prescribed successively by his doctors, he believed he was safe, and went to his regular employment. Up to this time he felt no symptoms that alarmed him, except a *vertigo*, which visited him almost daily, until a short time previous to the attack. He worked for a few days; but on the 21st he felt a *dull pain*, in the wound, at the point where he was bitten. This gradually ascended the arm, communicating a sensation of dull heavy uneasiness, entered the body, and was then felt in like manner through the left side, and finally throughout the body. He now (the morning of the 22d day), first manifested the pa-

thognomonic symptom—abhorrence of water. He came to the Hospital four days after the invasion of the second stage of the disease.

The true nature of the hydrophobic virus has long been a subject of interest and speculation. The experiments of Magendie and Breschet demonstrate the fact, that the peculiar poison which gives rise to this disease is contained in the salivary secretion which is so abundantly discharged from the mouth of the patient. They inoculated two healthy dogs with the saliva from the mouth of a dying patient, one of which became rabid in 44 days, and the other in 75. The specific virus of rabies is mixed in some manner with the saliva, but no analysis has, as yet, been equivalent to its demonstration. In a practical point of view, its discovery is infinitely less desirable than that of its antidote. Our microscopic school of philosophers would doubtless regard it as unequivocally *animalcular*, as they do the proximate cause of variola, yellow fever, and all other diseases. Why is it that the hydrophobic virus, in like manner with that of most other diseases, may pass, harmless, through all other parts of the animal structure, and exert its terrible morbid agency upon particular organs? It is indubitably certain that there exists a correspondence between certain poisonous substances that pervade the kingdoms of nature in various forms, and particular organs and functions of the animal system; and that in this correspondence lies the deep secret of the *specific* agency of the morbid as well as curative substances; and hence, the Homœopathic system is pregnant with at least one truth that is of the utmost importance in medicine. This correspondence of the active ingredients of nature with the various structures and functions of the human system, presents an arena for the research and labor of medical *savans* which is beginning to be traversed with hopeful assiduity.

The fear of water, and, at the same time, the desire to drink, *may be physically* and pathologically accounted for by the morbid appearances on dissection. We have a portion of the pharynx exceedingly dry, and, at the same time, so contracted and disorganized as to prevent deglutition. Death, in the preceding case, resulted from the pulmonary congestion, attended by the diseased condition of the lining membrane of the air passages.

How far the disorganization of the stomach was connected with the original disease, is extremely uncertain.

If the inflammation of the pharynx was a consequence of its contiguity to the larynx, why were not other contiguous parts involved?

Is it highly probable that the brain suffers in this disease only symptomatically?—*Western Medical Journal*.

#### NÆVI MATERNI.

[In several of the late numbers of the U. S. Medical and Surgical Journal, an interesting discussion has been carried on between our correspondent "Celsus," and John Stearns, M.D. of New York, on the subject of Nævi Materni. We select the following remarks of the former, which commend themselves to the attention of medical men.]



It is by no means intended to deny, that the functions of the uterus are as liable to be influenced by extreme mental emotion, as those of most other organs, or that the development and growth of the fœtus may not be injured, checked, or destroyed, by very strong affections of the mind. It must, however, be a vastly rarer occurrence than is usually supposed; for nothing is more common than mental uneasiness and distressing forebodings, among gravid women, without producing the least sensible effect on their offspring. The laws of reproduction act with such a predominant force and constancy, that they are seldom essentially deranged, without some very efficient cause. The plan and superintending care of Providence, in this respect, would be well worth the attention of writers upon natural theology, such as Paley, and the authors of the Bridgewater treatises. Nor, for the sake of the argument, will there be any question made, but that the sight of the turtle was the cause of this case of deformity.\* All that is contended for, as respects the point under examination, is this, that the sudden sight of a rattlesnake was just as liable to produce the same injury. If the author is understood, he is supposed to maintain, that if the object of surprise had been a rattlesnake, the child would have resembled a rattlesnake, or would have been liable to have had the mark of the snake, or of his rattle, on some part of the body. He does not go so far, according to the common idea, as to say that it would be on the same part of the body, as that of her own upon which the mother first laid her hand, after the sight or its consequent surprise.

Were not monstrosities, comparatively, so rare, they might probably be as easily classified as any other productions of nature, and be found to be subject to the same unerring laws. In fact many of them have already been satisfactorily traced, by the French and other foreign naturalists. An eye is never placed in a foot, a heart is not enveloped in the cranium, and—notwithstanding the currency of many fabulous stories—there is not the slightest proof that one species is ever substituted for another.

Man is subject to greater variation of circumstances than any other creature within our knowledge, and yet, in his reproduction, there are probably fewer deviations from the general rule, than in any other formation in which there is so constant and so rapid a succession. In the vegetable kingdom, we cannot take a step into a garden or cultivated field, without meeting with double flowers, and other anomalies. Imperfect crystallizations, and misplaced stratifications, among minerals, are probably more numerous than regular formations. It is a law, if I may so say, that a large proportion of both these kingdoms should be abnormal. Happily, these deviations from the common standard are rare in the human species, and confined within relatively narrow limits. The principal reason of this undoubtedly is, the very slight connection—in certain points of view—that exists between the mother and the fœtus. After conception, as well as after birth, the former is little, if anything, more than the nurse of the latter. The insensibility of the umbilical cord is

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\* Mentioned in the U. S. Medical and Surgical Journal, March, 1836, page 263.

such, that the offspring neither feels directly the pain of the parent, nor the parent the pain of the offspring; and there are strong grounds to suppose, that the sympathies between the two are no greater—they are perhaps less—than when the child is nursing at the breast.

The *nisus formationis*, or reproductive effort, however, in man, as well as in the brute and vegetable creation, is occasionally disturbed and its operations deranged. Man, as an organized being, is subject to the same laws as these other two departments in nature. As the subject under consideration is confined to organization merely, it is a matter entirely gratuitous, in this respect, to suppose him to be governed by any other laws. If his formation was acted upon by a greater number of causes, we should consequently suppose him to exhibit a greater number of defects. If a cause, so whimsical and inconstant as the imagination, is to be taken into the account, he would be exposed to incessant and innumerable deviations in his structure, and his whole conformation would be the sport of whim and caprice. The general rule is directly the reverse of this hypothesis. Of all the abnormal conformations, which are so much dreaded by the mother, and which formerly, like other vulgar, barbarous, and unphilosophical prejudices and superstitions, were universally believed, in a superstitious age, not one in a thousand—probably not one in millions—is ever known to occur.

The origin of the idea, that the imagination of the mother is liable to *mark* her offspring, is not unphilosophical, however, but may be accounted for in a most satisfactory manner, as suggested by Denman and others. In a barbarous state of society, where women were usually the slaves of men, they were as dexterous in managing their lords, in cases of emergency, as they are now in a refined age. No happier expedient could probably be devised, than that of longings and marks, to induce their husbands to treat them with tenderness during the period of utero-gestation. The same plan is now obviously resorted to, in many instances, by the poor, to excite the compassion of the wealthy. It would be easy to mention women within my knowledge, who, when gravid, long for almost every delicacy in the neighborhood. For the same reason, cases of feigned pregnancy have been known.

Previous to the time of quickening, the *fœtus* appears to be in a vegetative state, and there seems to be no proof that either of the senses is developed. There can be very little doubt, that most of the cases of mal-conformation are produced during this period. After quickening, the laws of animal life appear to be gradually superadded to those of vegetative existence. The statutes of most civilized countries, therefore, make an important distinction, with respect to the degree of criminality of producing an abortion, in these two different periods. At any rate, we know that after quickening, the parts of the *fœtus*, in general, are pretty well developed, and are not very liable to any important changes. If the child were to be affected—except merely as a matter of shock, concussion, or physical violence—by the emotions of the mother, we should undoubtedly suppose it to take place most frequently, when the two beings were most nearly alike, and most liable to the same kind of sympathies, and that mind would not be likely to make an impression upon

vegetative matter, any more *in utero*, than in any other states of vegetative existence.

In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, the supposed coincidences of longings and frights with marks and monstrosities, upon a close, philosophical investigation, are found to be whimsical in the highest degree, and cannot be traced, without indulging the crudest vagaries of fancy. A rule, which will not apply to one case in a hundred, for all precautionary or practical purposes, is worse than no rule at all, as it worries the mind about a possible contingency, which, like accidents from lightning, earthquakes, and tornadoes, it is more happy for us to forget and despise, than to anticipate. Such apprehensions, when habitually indulged, torment us by keeping us in a state of dread, when there is no adequate cause of fear.

From the nature of this subject, allowing, with the author of the "Remarks," that the *fœtus* is sometimes influenced, in its formation, by the imagination of the mother, what possible advantage can there arise from the publication of such rare cases, which are mere exceptions to the general rule? They only show that in these instances, as in many other circumstances, there are accidents which no human sagacity can avoid. At the present day, no one need be told that it is the part of humanity to treat a gravid woman with tenderness. She has reason enough for anxiety, without being alarmed by the report of every possible contingency. Such information would be of very little more service to obstetrical practitioners.

The case, which is the cause of these desultory strictures, was one belonging to the author's second class—deficiency of development. As far as the argument is concerned, we may readily allow, that the *nisus formativus* was deranged in its operations, by the fright from the sight of the turtle. Neither arms, legs, nor nose were developed, and the matter which might have formed them, it seems, was supposed to be deposited on the back. It is greatly to be lamented, that in this instance, as in most cases of the kind, the examination appears to have been hurried and superficial, unattended with that minute scrutiny, and that scientific inspection, which are always necessary for the formation of just philosophical principles. Our deductions, therefore, must unfortunately be as loose and indefinite as the *data*. We are still referred back to the question—Was the fright from the sight of the tortoise, allowing that it deranged the *nisus formativus*, any more likely to produce this specific defect, than if it had been occasioned by any other hideous spectacle? If we allow the fancied resemblance to have been ever so perfect, the most that we can make of it, is one of those rare coincidences, which happen so seldom as deservedly to have no weight, when we are reasoning from cause to effect.

I cannot conclude, without reiterating the sense of the obligations, which, in common with the medical public, I am under to the venerable author of the "Remarks," for his discoveries and improvements in one of the most important branches of our art. I should not, probably, have troubled the profession with these crude suggestions, had the original article come from an inexperienced or junior member of the faculty. I by no means feel the less cordial to him, because I apprehend he may pos-

sibly have mistaken an occasional coincidence for a case of philosophical causation, it being the common source of all theoretical errors. Instead of being surprised by such solitary, casual occurrences, with me the wonder is, that, in the chapter of accidents, they should be so extremely rare.

CELSUS.

#### STATISTICS OF THE INSANE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

BY DR. BELL, OF DERRY, N. H.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE subject of an Insane Asylum has been before the Legislature of this State for a number of years. In 1832, with a view to accurate information in regard to the number and condition of the Insane, the Selectmen of the towns were directed to return all the facts on this subject. Another return was directed in 1834, and again in 1836. The last was made by gentlemen to whom a circular had been addressed by a Legislative Committee, and is much more full and explicit than those formerly made.

At the recent session of the Legislature, having been one of a special committee to which the entire subject of the Insane was referred, a vast amount of returns and documents was placed in my hands, from which I have selected some statistical facts, which may, perhaps, be deemed of interest to the medical community. It is to be regretted that notwithstanding all the exertions made to obtain complete statements, so many towns neglected to make any report, and others were made so indefinitely, that these statistics will give only an approximation towards the actual facts on this subject.

The whole number of towns and places in N. H. is about 220; the entire population of the State is now judged to be not far from 280,000.

The returns of the insane are generally of the present year, referring, in a few instances, to those of 1834 and 1832, when no more recent report had been made.

The whole number of towns returned is 141, comprising a population of 173,773 persons, by the census of 1830.

Twenty towns, the population of which is 19,796, reported that they had no inhabitants comprised under the term *insane*. The whole number of insane reported in these 141 towns, was 312. From the terms employed in the circular requiring information, it is nearly certain that only a few cases of idiots, &c. were returned; and, probably, very few persons except those constantly insane.

The number of the insane, who were paupers, was 152; the number supported by their own means, by their friends, or in part by their own labor, was 160. As far as distinguished, the number of males was 116; of females, 159.

The number reported as "confined," including all in jails, cages, chains, strong rooms, handcuffs, &c. &c. (some being returned as "lately confined," "sometimes confined," &c.), was 81.

The ages of those particularized were as follows : of 184 persons, were

Under 20 years	5	From 50 to 60	30
From 20 to 30	25	" 60 to 70	32
" 30 to 40	35	" 70 to 80	15
" 40 to 50	39	" 80 to 90	3

The duration of the insanity in the 221 cases reported, was as follows (many cases being returned as "long insane," "many years deranged," &c.) :

Under 6 months	13	From 10 to 20 years	60
From 1 to 2 years	11	" 20 to 30 "	29
" 2 to 3 "	10	" 30 to 40 "	19
" 3 to 4 "	13	" 40 to 50 "	7
" 4 to 5 "	16	" 50 to 60 "	2
" 5 to 10 "	41		

The average duration of the insanity was found to be rather more than thirteen and a half years.

The present horrible condition of the insane in this State, unfolded to the committee in the examination of these documents, and information from other sources, is truly appalling; but not of a character suitable to the pages of a medical journal.

The Legislature finally resolved that the question whether or not an Asylum should be founded for the Insane, should be presented directly to the people for their decision at the electoral election in November proximo, and provided for the publication of the report of their Special Committee, in order that information might be spread amongst the citizens, to enable them to act understandingly on the subject. If sufficient exertions are made to extend the facts, regarding the number, condition, probability and expenses of cure, amelioration, &c. of the insane, throughout the State, no doubt can exist that the legislature will be authorized to make an adequate appropriation the present year. If, however, the hopes of the friends of humanity and science are destroyed by the refusal of the people to sanction this object, it is certain that a great number of years must elapse before the design can be revived with any prospect of success. It is believed that the philanthropist could in no other way effect so great an amount of good in a short time, as in giving our citizens light that should reach them all, on a subject, in regard to which they are now lamentably uninformed.

#### EXPERIMENTS IN ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SIR—Knowing that your columns have been open to remarks on Animal Magnetism, I beg you to have the goodness to publish the following article, both for the sake of science and the cause of philanthropy.

The experiments and operations herein mentioned, were performed on a girl of the age of 12 years and a half, and who has been affected with epilepsy ever since her 6th year. She is under the care of Mons. Bugard, a French teacher in this city, and *not* a professor of magnetism,

who disinterestedly uses his magnetic powers merely for the benefit of his fellow creatures, and in philosophic investigation. The patient has been magnetized 13 times, often in presence of Drs. Ware, Lewis and Glover, of Boston. She certainly has been affected by the operations, and apparently favorably. That she is under the influence of magnetism, will be evident from the following statement.

On the 27th inst. Dr. Ware meeting Mons. Bugard, inquired of him concerning the health of his patient. Mons. B. replied that he thought her better—and from what I can see, he continued, I think that magnetism has great power over her, inasmuch as she seems to have no sense of feeling during the operation; to-morrow we intend to extract a decayed molar tooth.—Do you not think that she will awake? asked the doctor.—I do not know; but since, in France, much more severe surgical operations have been performed on persons under its influence, *without producing pain*, I think we may succeed in this case.—I assure you she will awake, said Dr. W.—I do not know, replied Mons. B.—I have no doubt of it; however, I should like to see it.—I should be happy to have your attendance.

On the next day the contemplated operation was performed by the writer, in presence of Drs. Ware and Glover; not only without awakening her, but without even the slightest indication of feeling on her part. After she awoke, 10 or 15 minutes having elapsed, she conversed with us for several minutes without any reference to what had taken place. These circumstances, so extraordinary, both from the age and sex of the patient and the nature of the operation, led to the invitation of several scientific gentlemen to witness the operation of this day. We subjoin the history of the seance of the 30th of June, at which Professor Treadwell, of Harvard University, Drs. Ware, Lewis, Harwood and Lodge, A. D. Parker, Esq. and Messrs. Ware and West, medical students, were present.

Pulse, before magnetizing, ranged from 84 to 90. Mons. B. began at 19 minutes before 10. The patient immediately complained of feeling sleepy. At the end of 3 minutes, Dr. Harwood and Mr. Parker entered the room; at 4 minutes, the tickling of the lips, nostrils and ears of the patient produced no motion; the right eyelid was raised, the lower lip was drawn down, without her notice. Five minutes having elapsed. Mons. B. addressed her. Louisa?—Sir.—How do you feel?—Sleepy.—Do you want very much to sleep?—Yes.—How long have you slept?—I don't know.—Holding his hands before her face, Do you feel my hands?—No.—Louisa, let me see your tongue; patient complied with the request, and put out her tongue. 7 minutes: was requested by Mons. B. to open her mouth, which she did, and tooth was examined. Dr. Ware: Louisa?—Sir.—How do you do?—Very well.—Do you hear anything? No.—No noise in the street?—No. (A carriage was then passing.) Prof. Treadwell: Louisa?—Sir.—Where are you?—In this room.—What room?—Mons. Bugard's. 9 minutes. At this time the pulse were 100 per minute. At 10 minutes, Mons. B. asked how she felt, to which she replied that she was *sleepy*; she complied with his request, that she should open her mouth. Dr. Harwood then extracted one of the molar



teeth (it being deciduous and decayed). Dr. Ware perceived no change of pulse during the operation, although there was a flush over the whole face and a slight quivering of the lip, with a countenance indicative of considerable pain. Mons. B.: Louisa, how do you feel?—I feel the tooth.—Have they pulled a tooth for you?—Yes.—Who did it for you?—Dr. Ware.\*—Why do you mention Dr. Ware?—I don't know. 15 minutes: pulse 96. How happened it that you did not cry? asked Mons. B., when a back tooth was removed?—I never cry on such occasions. Spits out the blood, at the request of Mons. B. During all this time the patient remained apparently sound asleep. 17 minutes. How do you feel?—Sleepy. 19 minutes: Mons. B. having magnetized some water, gave it to the patient, who drank it. How do you like it?—Very much.—Very much?—Yes.—How does it taste?—Very good.—Better than common water?—Yes.—Do you find any particular taste in it?—No, I find it very good. Says she does not remember having drunk any water during yesterday's seance, it having then been given to her. 22 minutes: motion of lips on irritation with a feather. 25 minutes: the magnetizing of the flexors of the right arm, produced a slight flexion of the thumb and fingers. Mr. Parker clapped his hands very near her ear, when a slight action of the eyebrows and a flush of the cheeks ensued. Mons. B. played on the flageolet; Dr. Ware asked her if she heard anything. Yes.—What?—Music. Mons. B.: Do you like it?—Yes. Dr. Ware played. Mons. B.: Do you hear anything?—Yes.—What?—Music. Says she likes, but that it will wake her. Mons. B.: Are you weaker?—No, I think I am getting well: I think magnetism will cure me. 33 minutes: lips and nose tickled without motion. Dr. Ware: Do you feel anything?—No.—Nothing?—No. 35 minutes: Mons. B.: Louisa?—Sir.—Awake, I wish you to rise. She did so immediately. Did you dance?—No.—Did you have music?—Yes. Dr. Harwood: Did you feel anything about your mouth?—Yes.—What?—Tooth out; I know my tooth is gone, by my tongue and the blood. Dr. Lewis: Who extracted it?—Don't know; one of the Drs.—You are positive you have been asleep?—Yes.—How long do you suppose you have slept?—Don't know. Dr. Harwood: Did it hurt you a little?—Not at all. Dr. Lewis: Then you did not know anything about it?—No. Prof. Treadwell: Did it hurt you?—No.—Did you not know when he pulled it?—No.—How do you know it is gone?—Because my mouth is bloody only when my teeth are pulled.—How do you know there is any blood?—I perceive it in my mouth.

If it be indeed true that animal magnetism has this powerful effect, and that it enables the patient to undergo surgical operations with so much ease (in support of which hypothesis, vide Cloquet's operation for cancer in the breast), the subject must be worthy the close attention of every physician, especially of every kind-hearted surgeon; and particularly since the direct exertions of the Faculty will be almost the only mode of preserving us from the invasion of myriads of ignorant knaves and impudent quacks.

BENJ. H. WEST.

*Boston, June 30, 1836.*

\* Dr. Harwood entered the room after the patient was asleep; and had never been seen by or named to her.

## SINGULAR CASE OF MONOMANIA.

[FROM the Worcester Palladium of the 29th ult. we have transcribed the following curious case of derangement, not precisely because it is without a precedent, but because it illustrates a principle of considerable consequence to well-ordered society. It is immaterial whether it was drawn up by a physician or a member of the bar, since the narrative and the facts are doubtless correct and of no ordinary character.]

At the late term of the Supreme Court in this town, a patient of the State Lunatic Hospital, by the name of Andrew C. Davison, was brought into Court on a writ of *habeas corpus*, granted at his own request, and the Superintendent summoned to show cause of detention. Mr. Davison managed his own case, and John C. Park, Esq. of Boston, appeared as counsel to oppose the release from confinement. In the examination, the following facts, substantially, appeared in evidence from the testimony of several witnesses, principally from Boston.

Mr. Davison claimed to be released on the ground that he was not liable to the charge of being an insane person; and in support of this position, the officers of the institution testified that his general conduct, since he has been in Worcester, did not indicate insanity; that he was considered docile and civil in his deportment—conversed on general topics with propriety and reasoned well—and appeared to understand fully his rights and duties as a citizen, and rightly to appreciate his moral obligations. His temperament, however, is nervous, and he is subject to occasional irritation when thinking or speaking of his confinement and of those persons who procured it. He was educated at Harvard University, and is now 45 years of age. His place of residence is Boston, where he was formerly employed as a teacher; has been married, and had several children, and was regarded as an amiable and intelligent man. Six or eight years ago, at a time when he had become unfortunately embarrassed in his circumstances, he lost his wife, his spirits became dejected, and he drowned his grief with occasional intoxication; and was obliged in consequence of it to relinquish his school. He then leased his house to one of the witnesses, and went to board in the house of a widow lady on the opposite side of the street.

The first symptom of his insanity, *false hearing*, was shown in his treatment of his tenant. He believed that he took every opportunity, indeed made it his principal business, to insult him with offensive language in all places and on all occasions. He made a complaint to his tenant, and desired he would put a stop to conduct so disagreeable and annoying to him. In vain the witness protested that his charges were entirely groundless—that he had no occasion or disposition to treat him otherwise than respectfully. His rent was always paid promptly, and he had no other connection or concern with Mr. Davison. Yet Mr. Davison was continually annoyed with unkind expressions which he could distinctly hear him use, even when out of his sight; and at length he quarrelled with him. He then felt confident that his tenant's family united to ridicule and abuse him, beyond his patient endurance. One of the offensive expressions, which he accused his tenant of uttering incessantly, was that of "cock-eye Davison," alluding to a defect in one of

his eyes. The witness's daughter taught an infant school in one of the rooms of his house—one of the exercises of which was that of teaching the children to sing. When he was in the vicinity, he said she would always exercise them in singing a hymn which was all about "cock-eye Davison." At length the piano forte in the tenant's room began to discourse the same language, and finally the bells of the city and the birds of the country all chimed in with the piano and the singing infants. He went once to a large meeting in Faneuil Hall, where his tenant followed him and insulted him by exclaiming aloud the offensive words which had so often assailed him in his walks and in his rooms.

The sight of the persons who so much disturbed him, would throw him into a great rage, and he would abuse them whenever and wherever he could. He was also jealous and offended with those persons who were present when he heard the noises and denied hearing them themselves, and declared his conviction that they were imposing upon him. He was judged to be insane, and a large number of his friends requested that he might be placed in the Institution for the insane at Charlestown. After some time he was removed to the country 30 or 40 miles from Boston; but the noises still haunted him day and night, and he believed his tenant still hung around and visited him. Thus tormented, he became desperate and reckless, and was angry with all who opposed his views or doubted the correctness of his story.

In 1834 he was sent to the Hospital in this town; but in consequence of his inoffensive appearance, he was discharged and returned to Boston. For a time he appeared well; but at length his illusions all returned, if indeed they had ever left him, and he became dangerous to the peace of society. He was again placed in the McLean Asylum for several months, where he had the old difficulty of sounds and noises, and was very troublesome and injurious to the large class of curable and quiet patients. He was again discharged from that institution, and again sent to Worcester in the winter of 1835. At Worcester, though excitable and nervous, he is not affected by any noises abroad from the building, but believes in the reality of his former illusions. This position he maintained before the Court, on the theory of the transmission of sound, and he cited one or two examples from the books in support of it.

From such facts as these, Mr. Davison infers that sounds may be transmitted to a very great extent; and that the facility, with which they may be heard, depends very essentially upon the perfection of the organs of sense;—or, as he forcibly designated them, "the servants of the mind." When the sounds are not heard, it is no fault of the mind, but must be attributed to a want of fidelity in its servants. In his own case he maintains that his mind is not only sane, like other people, but that his organs are more perfect, or, in his own language, the servants of his mind are more faithful to him than are those of other people to them. Consequently when he hears noises that other persons cannot, it is because his organs of sense, or rather his servants of the mind, are more perfect and faithful than theirs.

On all other subjects he is rational and intelligent. He writes and converses well; and all his excitement grows out of this difficulty and

the abridgement of his liberty, which he believes to be unjust and oppressive. No man would suspect his insanity if he were with strangers. All that a stranger would observe, would be some oddity of character and singularity of countenance. The sounds and noises which so much disturb him in other places, he declares he does not hear in Worcester. The Superintendent of the Hospital, however, was not willing to hazard an opinion that he would be safe at large, with his impressions and prejudices against some persons in Boston whom he supposes his enemies; or that in case he should chance to be on trial for a felonious assault upon their persons, there would not be sufficient evidence of insanity to induce his acquittal on that ground, for any charge that might be brought against him in reference to any of those individuals from whom he conceives he has received so much insult and oppression.

The Court, upon a consideration of the case, felt obliged to direct that Mr. Davison be remanded. They advised him also to submit himself to the humane treatment he would receive from the officers of the Hospital, assuring him that the Court would at any future time give his case further consideration, whenever there should appear stronger evidence that his release would be beneficial to himself and safe to the public. It is proper to add that the Trustees of the Hospital have several times considered Mr. Davison's case, and have uniformly decided that under existing circumstances he cannot be set free consistently with the rights of those persons from whom he thinks he has received injury and injustice, so long as his illusion in relation to them remains unbroken.

## BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JULY 6, 1836.

### RESEARCHES IN MEDICINE.\*

It is the happiness of some men to write appropriately as well as profoundly. Of the countless multitudes of authors on medicine and its collateral branches, but a very few succeed in transmitting their names, in the manner contemplated, to posterity. One reason why such bad success attends the endeavors of those who are manifestly ambitious of exercising dominion over the minds of coming generations, arises from the unfortunate circumstance that they have, in the first place, done the world no real service, because they have discovered nothing new; and, in the second, instead of recording important facts, without which there can be no advancement in the science of medicine, theory upon theory, the meteors of a day, constitute a majority of that mass of forgotten lore, on which powerful intellects were brought to bear with mighty, though utterly useless effect.

This acknowledged waste of labor, however, exercises no restraining

\* *Researches in Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence*, by JOHN B. BACK, M.D. Prof. Materia Medica and Medical Jurisprudence in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York, &c. Second edition. E. Bliss, New York, 1836.

influence on new candidates for public favor :—like Roman gladiators, they rush into the arena, determined to conquer or die. Few, very few, are remembered long after the exhibition they thus make of themselves.

Next in rank to those who discover new laws in the science of life, the knowledge of which confers a direct blessing upon mankind, are such as possess the rare faculty of analyzing the productions of others, and extracting from all available sources just what possesses an intrinsic value, and no more. When reduced to order, and made subservient to the illustration of principles, they assume a degree of importance hardly inferior in point of interest to the best specimens of originality. This character obtains, because the collective wisdom of various countries and ages is contained in this species of authorship.

Another variety, partaking, in some measure, of the distinguishing characteristics of the foregoing, embraces the opinions of all reputable authors whose writings are considered worth consulting, commented upon and simplified by one of eminent acquirements in the practice of a profession to which he has been systematically educated.

The name of John B. Beck must necessarily hold an elevated place, not so much on account of the novelty of his studies, as on the score of utility. He ranges the whole world for facts and precedents in Medical Jurisprudence. No language opposes his progress nor discourages his ardor in the pursuit of truth. Perhaps, with the exception of Dr. Theodorice Romeyn Beck, he has not a rival in the United States, in the particular department on which the whole strength of a highly cultivated mind has been exerted. We have nothing to gain by flattering a gentleman whom we never saw, and whose eye, perhaps, may never rest on a sentence of our inditing. His researches, as published from time to time, are so convincing, so plain, and yet so perfectly logical as well as philosophical, that he cannot be wronged out of a deserved reputation, either by faint praise or envy. This second edition is an evidence of the increasing demand for the work, which is continually enlarging with age. With his endeavors to meet the expectations of lego-medical readers, whose sustaining patronage is of itself a commendation of which an author might well be proud, he does not in a single instance appear to have lost sight of the progress of the science in any other country. In purchasing the latest edition of his *Researches in Medicine*, we are sure of having before us all that could be gathered by an indefatigable author, as veracious as he is just and decisive.

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*Medical Miscellany.*—Dr. Irwin, of New Orleans, has accompanied Gen. Houston to Texas, as his attending surgeon.—Scarlet fever is prevailing very fatally at Mobile.—An infirmary for gratuitous treatment of the skin, has been established in New York, under the supervision of Drs. A. D. Buckley and John Watson.—Dr. Alfred Baylies, of Taunton, Mass. gives notice in the Old Colony Whig, that he has discovered a specific for the cure of *herpes*, which he will distribute, gratuitously, to physicians. We should like a box on our own account.—What has become of the intended insane institution, at Hingham? Dr. Gordon would have been distinguished in it.—We are informed that Dr. Cutter has left Pepperell, and that the private establishment in that place for the medical treatment of lunatics, has passed into other hands.—New Orleans is uncommonly free from sickness, a rare circumstance at this season of the year.—Vaccination has been conducted so actively, of late, in the coun-

try, that smallpox appears to have been completely circumscribed.—It is said a gentleman, quite near us, is writing a tremendously large work upon physic. We had rather take his physic than read his book.—An inflammation of the conjunctiva has been prevalent at the north, of late.—Through the Arkansas territory, diseases of the eye are exceedingly obstinate, as well as frequent, which is imputed to obnoxious exhalation from the ground.—Dr. Ebenezer Emmons, of Williamstown, Mass. is appointed, with others, to make the geological survey of the State of New York.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending July 2, 28. Males, 17—Females, 11.  
Of Consumption, 7—old age, 1—liver complaint, 1—brain fever, 2—hooping cough, 1—infantile, 3—dropsy, 2—croup, 2—dropsy on the brain, 1—lung fever, 2—apoplexy, 1—drowned, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 1—scarlet fever, 1—gangrene, 1—stillborn, 3.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

### CINCINNATI COLLEGE—MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

**SECOND SESSION.** The first introductory lecture will be delivered on the last Monday of October. The didactic lectures will commence on the first Tuesday in November, and continue until the end of February, by the following professors:

JOSEPH N. McDOWELL, M.D. on Special and Surgical Anatomy.

SAMUEL D. GROSS, M.D. on General and Pathological Anat. Physiology and Medical Jurisprudence.

WILLARD PARKER, M.D. on Surgery.

LANDON C. RIVER, M.D. on Obstetrics and the Diseases peculiar to Women and Children.

JAMES B. ROGERS, M.D. on Chemistry and Pharmacy; assisted by

JOHN L. RIDDLE, M.D. adjunct Professor of Chemistry and lecturer on Botany.

JOHN P. HARRISON, M.D. on Materia Medica.

DANIEL DRAKE, M.D. on Theory and Practice of Medicine.

The Faculty congratulate themselves and the students of the West, on the trustees' having appointed to the chair of Surgery, a gentleman who has already distinguished himself as a public teacher in three different schools of Vermont, Massachusetts, and New York. He has accepted the appointment, and will be in Cincinnati before the opening of the session.

The spacious and convenient College Edifice, near the centre of the city, with its new wing, embracing an apparatus room, an apartment for the anatomical cabinet, and a capacious dissecting-room, will be finished and in perfect order before the lectures commence.

Students who intend to graduate must matriculate by the 20th of November. The price of the whole is one hundred and five dollars; the dissecting ticket, ten; Matriculation, two; and graduation fees, twenty-one.

By order of the Faculty.

DANIEL DRAKE, M.D. Dean.

Cincinnati, Ohio, May, 1836.

### MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

THE subscribers are associated for the purpose of giving a complete course of medical instruction and will receive pupils on the following terms:

The pupils will be admitted to the practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and will receive clinical lectures on the cases they witness there. Instruction, by lectures or examinations, will be given in the intervals of the public lectures, every week day.

On Midwifery, and the Diseases of Women and Children,	and on Chemistry	by	DR. CHANNING.
On Physiology, Pathology, Therapeutics, and Materia Medica		"	DR. WARE.
On the Principles and Practice of Surgery		"	DR. OTIS.
On Anatomy		"	DR. LEWIS.

The students are provided with a room in Dr. Lewis's house, where they have access to a large library. Lights and fuel without any charge. The opportunities for acquiring a knowledge of Anatomy are not inferior to any in the country.

The fees are \$100—to be paid in advance. No credit given, except on sufficient security of some person in Boston, nor for a longer period than six months.

Applications are to be made to Dr. Walter Channing, Tremont Street, opposite the Tremont House, Boston.

Jan 20—1yep

WALTER CHANNING,  
JOHN WARE,  
GEORGE W. OTIS, JR.  
WINSLOW LEWIS, JR.

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